



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Sean T. Connaughton  
Secretary of Transportation

April 6, 2011

Mr. Charles D. Snelling, Chairman  
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority  
1 Aviation Circle  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Snelling:

I write to express the Commonwealth's disappointment with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's (MWAA) decision to advance the tunnel alignment through Dulles International Airport for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

As you know, the Commonwealth asked MWAA to ensure the most cost effective construction for Phase 2 of the project, and the decision to pursue the tunnel alignment raises concerns about MWAA's commitment to the Commonwealth to ensure cost sensitive leadership. The tunnel alignment, by all accounts, is a more expensive alignment than the aerial option through the airport, and will place a heavy financial burden on local funding partners and Dulles Toll Road users.

The Commonwealth views the decision to pursue the tunnel alignment as MWAA's statement that it views the alignment as an airport improvement rather than part of the rail project. Therefore, it is not considered a financial commitment to the rail project, local partners, the Dulles Toll Road or the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth's goal is to advance Phase 2 of the project with a cost estimate as close to the original estimate of \$2.5 billion as possible. MWAA's selection of the tunnel alignment places undue financial burden on the project cost, making the Commonwealth's goal of a cost effective project harder to achieve. Should MWAA continue forward, the Commonwealth will work with you on value engineering to further reduce the estimated costs for Phase 2 of the project.

In addition to the efforts to maintain the estimated project cost, the Commonwealth asks that you work to ensure toll rates remain as low as possible as you proceed through the planned toll rate study to identify a financing method for construction of Phase 2 of the project.

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The selection of the tunnel alignment through the Dulles International Airport has raised concerns for the Commonwealth. We will work with you in the coming months to fully understand MWAA's decision and its impact on local and state commitments. We trust that MWAA remains committed to working with the Commonwealth to deliver this critical transportation project in the most efficient, safe and cost effective manner, and that you will provide the Commonwealth with a plan that meets this goal.

Sincerely,



Sean T. Connaughton